

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

SPC-03 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TAR-02 SAJ-01 DRC-01 NSCE-00 PRS-01

/110 W

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R 220912Z JAN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1285

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR ETRD CH

SUBJ: POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF MEAT FROM PRC

REF: A) STATE A-9759 B) PEKING 18 C) STATE 3451

SUMMARY. USLO HAS PROVIDED THE PRC WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING US REQUIREMENTS ON IMPORTS OF MEAT. THE CHINESE REPLIED THAT AFTER THE NEW INFORMATION IS TRANSLATED AND STUDIED, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. USLO, HOWEVER, IS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING THE DEGREE OF PRC COOPERATION THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE TRADE IN MEAT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. USLO COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC OFFICER HOROWITZ CALLED ON HOU CHUN (0186/2902) OF THE CHINA NATIONAL CEREALS, OILS AND FOODSTUFFS IMPORT AND EXPORT CORPORATION (CEROILFOOD) ON JANUARY 21 TO CONTINUE PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF PRC MEAT EXPORTS TO THE US. HOU IS DIRECTOR OF THE MEAT & EGG EXPORT DIVISION OF CEROILFOOD AND WAS PRESENT AT THE SEPT 6 MEETING WE HAD WITH FU HSING, A DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF CEROILFOOD.

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2. HOROWITZ MADE THE PRESENTATION WORKED OUT IN THE REFERENCE MESSAGES AND PROVIDED HOU WITH THE MATERIALS PREPARED BY USDA. HOU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT AFTER THE NEW MATERIALS ARE TRANSLATED AND STUDIED IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER. HOU TOOK ISSUE WITH THE REMARKS IN THE ORAL PRESENTATION THAT THE PRC MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS THEY PREVIOUSLY GAVE US ARE LIMITED IN COVERAGE. HE SAID THOSE REGULATIONS DEAL WITH MORE THAN JUST ANTE- AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTIONS, AND COVER SUCH MATTERS AS PROCESSING AND HYGIENIC HANDLING. BOTH SIDES, HE SAID, SHOULD MAKE FURTHER STUDIES OF EACH OTHER'S REGULATIONS. (HOU GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THE CHINESE WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO OUR REQUEST FOR COPIES OF ADDITIONAL PRC LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

3. REFERRING TO THE COMMENT IN THE ORAL PRESENTATION THAT US MEAT INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS ARE HIGHLY COMPLEX, HOU SAID THAT SUCH REGULATIONS ARE OFTEN NOT SO COMPLEX AS THEY MAY SEEM, AND NOTED THAT CHINA HAS BEEN EXPORTING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FOR MANY YEARS AND TO MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE ORAL PRESENTATION (I.E., THAT THE US HAS PROPOSED TRADE IN MEAT AS ONE POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD IMPROVING THE TRADE BALANCE, AND THAT IF THE PRC IS INTERESTED WE ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE), HOU SAID THERE SHOULD BE "NO DOUBT" OF THE PRC'S INTEREST, AND IF TRADE IN MEAT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS POSSIBLE, THE CHINESE ON THEIR PART ARE "WILLING".

4. COMMENT: THE MEETING, LIKE THE PREVIOUS ONES, WAS VERY CORDIAL. WE HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH FU HSING, BUT WAS TOLD HE WAS BUSY. WE DO NOT INTERPRET THE FACT OF FU'S UNAVAILABILITY, HOWEVER, AS A NEGATIVE INDICATION. HOU HAS IMMEDIATE RESPONSIBILITY AND IS CLEARLY WELL VERSED

IN THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER. DESPITE THE UP-BEAT TONE OF HOU'S REMARKS, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING THE DEGREE OF PRC COOPERATION THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE TRADE IN MEAT PRODUCTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES POSSIBLE. IN TAKING THE INITIATIVE, THE
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USG HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS SINCERITY IN WISHING TO COOPERATE WITH THE PRC TO EXPAND TWO-WAY TRADE. USLO DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE ANY FURTHER APPROACHES FOR THE TIME BEING. IF AFTER SIX OR MORE MONTHS WE DO NOT HEAR FROM THE CHINESE ON THIS MATTER, WE SHOULD THEN CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT A FURTHER APPROACH ON OUR PART WOULD BE IN ORDER.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

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